

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An aluminum pigment, which is at least partially coated with a lubricant, characterized in that said aluminum pigment has

- a) a water coverage between 40,000 and 130,000 cm²/g,
- b) a mean thickness h of less than 100 to 30 nm as calculated from the water coverage and ~~a~~ the h_{50} value as determined from the cumulative breakthrough curve of a scanning electron microscope thickness count,
- c) as determined by a scanning electron microscope thickness count, a relative width of the distribution of thicknesses Δh of from 70% to 140%, as calculated on the basis of the corresponding cumulative breakthrough curve of the relative frequencies of occurrence, according to the formula

$$\Delta h = 100 \times \frac{h_{90} - h_{10}}{h_{50}},$$

- d) an aspect ratio d_{50}/h of more than 200, and
- e) a roughness value of from 0.30 to 0.9, as calculated from the specific surface area as determined by the BET test method and the water coverage, according to the formula:

BET value/2 x water coverage.

2. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment has, as determined by a scanning electron microscope thickness count, a relative width of the distribution of thicknesses Δh of from 75% to 120%, as calculated on the basis of the corresponding cumulative breakthrough curve of the relative frequencies of occurrence according to the formula $\Delta h = 100 \times \frac{h_{90} - h_{10}}{h_{50}}$.

3. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment has an aspect ratio d_{50}/h of more than 220.

4. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment has a roughness value, calculated from the specific surface area, as determined by the BET test method, and the water coverage, according to the following formula: BET value/2 x water coverage of 0.35 to 0.9.

5. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is at least partially coated with a fatty acid as lubricant.

6. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is at least partially coated with stearic acid as lubricant.

7. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is at least partially coated with oleic acid as lubricant.

8. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is at least partially coated with a mixture of stearic acid and oleic acid as lubricant.

9. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is at least partially coated with a phosphonic acid, a phosphoric acid ester or a mixture thereof as lubricant.

10. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is coated with a passivating inhibitor or anti-corrosion layer.

11. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said passivating inhibitor layer comprises corrosion inhibiting organic phosphonic acids or phosphoric acid esters, functional organic silanes, aliphatic or cyclic amines, aliphatic or aromatic nitro compounds, oxygen-, sulfur- or nitrogen-containing heterocyclics, sulfur- or nitrogen-containing higher ketones, aldehydes and alcohols, thiols, β -ketoesters,

β -diketones, or mixtures thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said passivating anti-corrosion layer comprises silicon oxide, zirconium oxide, aluminum oxide, chromium oxide, polymerized plastic resins, vanadium oxides, molybdenum oxides or peroxides, phosphates, phosphites, borates or mixtures thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 10, characterized in that said passivating anti-corrosion layer comprises silicon dioxide.

14. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment has been oxidized by water in an aqueous chemical process and said aluminum pigment has modified color.

15. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is a powder or a compacted form.

16. (Withdrawn) A process for the production of a pigment as defined in claim 1, comprising the following step: a) milling of aluminum particles to an aluminum pigment within a milling device in the presence of solvent, lubricants and milling media having an individual weight of from 2 to 13 mg, over a time period between 15 and 72 hours.

17. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that said milling media have an individual weight of from 5.0 to 12 mg.

18. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that said aluminum pigment is subjected to a size classification in an additional step b).

19. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that said aluminum pigment prepared in step a) or step b) is converted to a compacted form.

20. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that said aluminum pigment prepared in step a) or step b) is converted to powdered aluminum.

21. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that the solvent used is an organic solvent.

22. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 16, characterized in that the solvent used is water and the lubricant used is selected from the group consisting of an organic phosphonic acid, an ester thereof, a phosphoric acid, an ester thereof, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 23-24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) A nail varnish composition, characterized in that said nail varnish contains an aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

26. (Previously Presented) A water based paint composition, characterized in that said water based paint contains an aluminum pigment as defined in claim 9.

27. (Previously Presented) A coating composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

28. (Previously Presented) A paint composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

29. (Previously Presented) A printing ink composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

30. (Previously Presented) A powder coating composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

31. (Previously Presented) A plastic composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

32. (Previously Presented) A security printing ink composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

33. (Previously Presented) A ceramic composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

34. (Previously Presented) A cosmetic formulation composition comprising the aluminum pigment as defined in claim 1.

35. (Previously Presented) A water-based paint composition comprising the aluminum pigment of claim 10.

36. (Previously Presented) A coating composition for exterior applications comprising the aluminum pigment of claim 10.

37. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 13, wherein the silicon dioxide surface is coated with silanes.

38. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 15, wherein said aluminum pigment is a non-dusting powder.

39. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment as defined in claim 15, wherein said compacted form is a paste, granules, or pellets.

40. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 19, wherein the compacted form is a paste, granules, or pellets.

41. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 20, wherein the powdered aluminum is a non-dusting aluminum powder.

42. (Withdrawn) The process as defined in claim 21, wherein the organic solvent comprises white spirit, solvent naphtha, isopropanol, an alcohol, a ketone, or a mixture thereof.